P.W.D.P/59809/18

C.C.G. Form: 19

Vol. I.

W 564

CONTROL COMMISSION, GERMANY (BRITISH ELEMENT)

TOP SECRET

MOVEMENT OF GERMAN MINORITY

FROM POLAND.

OPERATION SWALLOW.

ARCHIVES
CCG 69/1776
Foreign Office (German Section)

TO BE KEPT UNDER LOCK AND KEY.

It is requested that special care may be taken to ensure the secrecy of this document.

CONTROL COMMISSION
FOR GERMANY
69/
RECORDS & ARCHIVES

P.W.D.P/59809/18 Vol. I.

453

(4) T.S.

Tel: LEMGO 602.

Ref: PWDP/58690.

CONTROL COMMISSION P.W. & D.P. 16 SEP 946 GERMANY (BE)

TOP SECRET. 8 09/18

P.W. & D.P. Division,
Zonal Executive Offices,
C.C.G. LEMGO,
66 H.Q. C.C.G.
B.A.O.R.

13 September 46.

To: Secretariat - Sec. "G",
Zonal Executive Offices,
C.C.G. LUEBECKE,
60 H.Q. C.C.G.
B.A.O.R.

N.T

Subject: Operation "SWALLOW".

Reference Signal BGCC/2734 of 11 Sept.46 and telecon. Brig.BRITTEN/BRAY of 11 Sept.46.

1. Herewith record of conversation between Col.BRUKHANOV - Lt.Col.BRAY at the Soviet Mission BAD OEYNHAUSEN on 11 Sept.46.

	INITIALS	DATE
CHIEF		
D/CHIEF		
SO I		
SO II		
SO III		
SO III		
SO III		
PA		
CHIEF CLERK		

for F.R.C.BRAY, Lt.Col. A.O.D.
for Chief PW & DP Division.

Copy to: P.W. & D.P. BERLIN.
Allied Liaison, BAD SALZUFLEN.

FRCB/HB.

(3)

RECORD OF CONVERSATION AT A MEETING BETWEEN Lt.Col. F.R.C. BRAY and Col. BRUKHANOV (Head of Staff - RUSSIAN REPATRIATION MISSION) at 18.00 hrs. on 11 Sept.46.

Lt.Col.BRAY — The subject I have come to talk about to-day has nothing to do with D.Ps. I have been asked to come to-day by the Deputy Chief of Staff.

Col.BRUKHANOV — As you have visited me only once before you must have a special question to ask.

Lt.Col.BRAY — Yes! I have come to talk to you about Operation "SWALLOW" which name you may or may not know of. You will remember that in the POTSDAM Agreement of May 1945, it was agreed that the German minorities should be expelled from POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AUSTRIA and HUNGARY. At the Control Council Meeting in November 1945, it was agreed that the four zones of GERMANY should receive these expellees.

Col.BRUKHANOV — GERMANS being expelled and distributed amongst the four zones? I know nothing about that Agreement, whatsoever!

Lt.Col.BRAY — I should like to explain what I am leading up to ..... The British Zone's share of GERMANS is 1½ millions. In February this year, after a Conference with the RUSSIANS and POLES, it was agreed to make a start to accept these 1½ millions into the British Zone. This is what is called Operation "SWALLOW".
Movement of these GERMANS actually began on the 26th February. By the middle of August, it was seen that the absorption capacity of the British Zone had very nearly reached complete saturation and therefore it was necessary for the Commander-in-Chief to order that the rate of acceptance should be reduced from 21 trains per week to 2 per week. This information was passed to the POLES and the rate of 2 trains, one to be received from STETTIN to LUBECK and the other from KOHLFURT to HELMSTED, came into effect, so far as the British Authorities are concerned, on the 5th September. Since the 5th September, the POLES have not kept to this Agreement of 2 trains per week, and to-day 8 trains have arrived and been accepted into the British Zone.
In view of this, the Commander-in-Chief has ruled that we will refuse to accept any trains other than the 2 per week agreed upon, and we are prepared to use force in order to prevent them coming into the British Zone.
I have come here to request the help and co-operation of our Soviet Allies in maintaining our Agreement, of only receiving 2 trains per week across the Soviet/British Frontier, and I would like to ask you to contact your Zonal Boundary Officers and those officers in charge of Soviet train movement, and to ask them to co-operate and stop any further expellee trains that try to cross into the British Zone. I wish to stress that we are not closing the British Zone to expellees but are only keeping to the Agreement. I have, therefore, been asked to contact you and inform you of these facts and ask if you can do anything to approach the various Soviet Officers. Is there anything that you would like to ask about this?

Col.BRUKHANOV — Firstly, this is a Mission with limited powers and only deals with repatriation, and it is clear that I cannot decide any questions like this.

(2)

Lt.Col.BRAY — I should be very grateful if you could take it up with the appropriate officers.

Col.BRUKHANOV — The question of bringing GERMANS from POLAND is controlled by the POLES from their side.

Lt.Col.BRAY — Trains that come into the British Zone come through Russian territory.

Col.BRUKHANOV — I do not know many Soviet Officers are connected with these trains because I do not know of any agreement. I could pass your request on by telephone to the appropriate officers.

Lt.Col.BRAY — I should be very glad if you would.

Col.BRUKHANOV — The next post to BERLIN is going on the 16th or 17th. I do not know to what extent Soviet Officers are connected with these trains coming through Soviet territory but I will do what I can and certainly pass on your request.
From my own side I would like to do the following :- Yesterday the Official Soviet Military arrived. It will be occupying itself with general questions, excluding repatriation. They will probably have a much wider scope for dealing with questions of this type. This Mission is in BAD SALZUFLEN.

Lt.Col.BRAY — Do you think it better to put this question to the Military Mission?

Col.BRUKHANOV — May be, but as this Mission has only just arrived, the General has not yet made all the necessary contacts.

Lt.Col.BRAY — I should be very glad if you could make enquiries on my behalf.

Col.BRUKHANOV — I am going to see the General to-day or tomorrow and will pass on your request.
A 'Polish Agreement is a Polish Agreement' and I represent Soviet Forces of Occupation in GERMANY.

Lt.Col.BRAY — I only came to ask your help once the trains had reached the Soviet Zone.

Col.BRUKHANOV — All I have to say is that you came to see me and I am passing on the request, but I cannot tell you what sort of help that will be; that any will be given, or that it will be done, but I will try through all the channels of communication.
Have you spoken to the POLES about this?

Lt.Col.BRAY — No! I am only concerned with asking your help when the trains reach the Soviet Zone.

Col.BRUKHANOV — I will contact two officers, one in LUBECK and on in VOLSHEIM, (that is where my transitional points are) so that they can communicate with the Soviet side and pass your request on. I will do this tomorrow.
This is what I can do and nothing more.
Have you any more questions?

Lt.Col.BRAY — No!

Control Commission for Germany (British Element)

809/18 TS

Incoming Top Secret Cipher Message

UNPARAPHRASED

IYB 29347
DTO SEP 091600
TOR 101030

	INITIALS	DATE
CHIEF		
SO I		
SO II		
SO III		
SO III		
PA		
CHIEF CLERK		

CONTROL COMMISSION P.W. & D.P. 10 SEP 1946 DIVISION (BE)

IMMEDIATE

FROM: CONCOMB

TO: BERCOMB
HQ MIL GOV DUSSELDORF

INFO: PW/DP DIVISION LEMGO

See 7272. 809/18.

CCG 43286 (HQ/ACOS(EXEC)A/50)

FROM DCOS (EXEC) FOR DCOS (POL) FOR INFO PW/DP DIVISION MIL GOV DUSSELDORF REQUESTED TO PASS COPY TO DMG.

FURTHER TO CCG 43244* HQ/ACOS(EXEC)A/50 OF 7 SEPT 46 CONCERNING OPERATION SWALLOW.

5 MORE SWALLOW TRAINS HAVE NOW ARRIVED IN THE ZONE MAKING A TOTAL OF 9 TRAINS IN EXCESS OF THE 2 DUE FOR WEEK BEGINNING 5 SEPT. AS YOU KNOW DMG's RULING IS THAT ANY TRAINS OVER 2 PER WEEK WILL BE TURNED BACK AT THE FRONTIER. IT IS PROBABLE THAT WHEN WE TURN BACK THESE TRAINS RUSSIANS WILL UNLOAD THE EXPELLEES ON THEIR SIDE OF THE FRONTIER AND MAKE THEM CROSS ON FOOT INTO OUR ZONE. WE HAD EXPERERIENCE OF THIS AT THE END OF OPERATION HONEYBEE AND THEN WE ONLY PREVENTED REFUGEES ENTERING OUR ZONE BY FIRING OVER THEIR HEADS THUS INDUCING THEM TO RETURN TO RUSSIAN ZONE. TO ENABLE US TO GIVE EFFECT TO DMG's DECISION, WE HAVE REQUESTED BAOR TO PROVIDE TROOPS AT HELMSTEDT AND LUBECK TO PREVENT THEM ENTERING OUR ZONE. BAOR HAVE AGREED. TRUST YOU CONCUR IN THIS ACTION AND THAT YOU WILL INFORM LONDON IF YOU CONSIDER IT NECESSARY. MEANWHILE YOU ARE PRESUMABLY ENSURING THAT STRONG PRESSURE IS PUT ON THE RUSSIANS AND POLES IN BERLIN TO STOP MOVEMENT OF TRAINS TO OUR FRONTIER IN EXCESS OF THE AGREED 2 PER WEEK.

THIS TELEGRAM IS BEING REPEATED TO DUSSELDORF FOR INFORMATION OF DMG.

*IYB 29191 refers.

DISTRIBUTION

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JI/III

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PDU. CCG. 805 3M 7.46*